

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 05557 091458Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W
-----013608 100510Z /23
R 091341Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0989

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5557

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN RO
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

FOR SCHMIDT FROM SIMONS, EUR/EE THREE COPIES ONLY

1. CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ROMANIA (STATE 197678). AFTER MATURE CONSIDERATION, WE DO NOT CONSIDER ANYTHING IN PATTISON-FROMOWITZ JULY 13 LETTER INAPPROPRIATE FOR RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S INQUIRY, WITH EXCEPTION FIRST PARA YOU HAVE ALREADY IDENTIFIED. YOU MAY HOWEVER ALSO WISH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FIGURES IN INR REPORT NO. 1025 DATED JULY 21, 1978, ENTITLED EASTERN EUROPE: IMPROVED CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS, ON NUMBER OF CATHOLICS IN ROMANIA: ROMAN -- MAGYARS 1,300,000, GERMANS 250,000 (LATTER SEEMS A LITTLE HIGH TO US), UNIATE -- 1,500.000.

2. SCIENCE ATTACHE POSITION (STATE 197678). THANKS FOR GOOD NEWS ON CONTINUED NSF FUNDING FOR SCIATT POSITION. PROPOSAL TO ACCREDIT JAY TO BULGARIA AND HUNGARY WILL BE SUPPORTED HERE. AS YOU KNOW, NSF FUNDING FOR POSITION ENDS SEPTEMBER 30. JUDGING FROM PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED LAST YEAR IN ACTUALLY OBTAINING FUNDS FROM NSF, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS MAY HAVE TO CARRY POSITION FOR SHORT PERIOD. WE HAVE FLAGGED THIS TO EUR/EX, AND JAY HAS WRITTEN DON DEHAVEN (OES/EX). WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD TOUCH BASE WITH THESE COLLEAGUES TO SEE WE DON'T GET CAUGHT
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 05557 091458Z

SHORT.

3. PICKERING ADVENT. ALONG SAME LINES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER TOM PICKERING, WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN HERE, HAS COME ABOARD AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OES.

4. US POLICY ON PASSPORT DISSIDENCE (STATE 199559).

IN AWAITING GUIDANCE MESSAGE ANNOUNCED IN REFTTEL, WE ARE TRUSTFUL GUIDANCE WILL RESPECT WHAT WE CONSIDER OBLIGATO DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN SITUATIONS IN MOSCOW AND OTHER EE POSTS LIKE THIS ONE: WITHOUT PREJUDGING CONTENT, IT SEEMS TO US THAT BLANKET GUIDANCE DESIGNED TO ENSURE UNIFORMITY WOULD CARRY RISK OF HARM FOR BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND POLIDY RELATIONS. SINCE REST OF POLICY IS BASED ON DISTINCTIONS RATHER THAN UNIFORMITY, THERE SEEMS NO ADVANTAGE TO GIVING LATTER TOP PRIORITY, MUCH LESS MAKING IT OBGoblin.

5. IASI JEWISH CHOIR (STATE 162622). FOR THE RECORD, PENDING STEVE BAYER'S FULL REPORT, I WAS PRESENT AT HIS MEETING AUGUST 3 WITH ARIA DIRECTOR VASILE FLOREA (PLUS ASSISTANT AND JUNIOR MAN FROM MFA); FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES SECRETARY GENERAL EMIL SEHTER SAT WITH US. BAYER GAVE FLOREA COPY OF HIS LETTER TO EMBASSY COUNSELOR FLOREA DETAILING NEEDS. FIRST PART OF DISCUSSION CONCERNED TIMING, WHICH SHOOK DOWN TO CHOICE BETWEEN SPRING 1980 (BAYER'S PREFERENCE) AND FALL 1979 (ROMANIAN PREFERENCE). SECOND PART CENTERED SQUARELY ON PAYMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS, WITH BAYER VERY (AND PROPERLY) FIRM. FLOREA ENDED BY TAKING LINE THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN APPRIZED OF SITUATION, AND WOULD CHECK INTO FUNDING POSSIBILITIES, BUT SITUATION WAS DIFFICULT; BAYER INTIMATED HE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 05557 091458Z

WILLING TO SEE ABOUT CHEAP FARE PROSPECTS ON US SIDE, BUT ONLY IF ROMANIANS MADE REAL EFFORT ON THEIRS. HE TOLD THEM FRANKLY THAT IF MATTER COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY SPRING 1979 (WHEN HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE CHANCE TO SWING BY EN ROUTE TO OR FROM ISRAEL AGAIN), TOUR MIGHT AS WELL BE FORGOTTEN. I CONTENTED MYSELF WITH STATEMENT THAT WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY WITH MANY POTENTIAL FAVORABLE EFFECTS, WHICH IT WOULD BE SHAME TO MISS. MY OWN FEELING IS THAT GOR WILL PAY AT SOME POINT, EVEN THOUGH TOUR IS LATE ARRIVAL IN PLAN AND THUS HARD TO FUND. BUT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BAYER'S REACTION. AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR05557
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780327-0138
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780879/aaaacojk.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09bfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1782431
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL FOR SCHMIDT FROM SIMONS, EUR/EE THREE COPIES ONLY
TAGS: OGEN, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09bfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014